



March 15, 2024  
Mid-Year Report from District 1  
Honorable Amy Lyn Blake

---

**Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico and Rhode Island**

**SPOTLIGHT ON THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

District One Members in the State of New Hampshire have done an extraordinary judge helping to resettle an Afghan Woman Judge who fled Afghanistan after more than two years in a refugee camp. **Judge Geeti Roen**, her husband, and three children are settled in Manchester (after spending some time in Vermont). The older children are in school and Judge Roen and her husband, a doctor, are working to putting their professional lives back together. This tremendous work started with a small group of volunteers comprised of judges, lawyers, and community members. They worked with a refugee settlement agency to secure housing, transportation, and supplemental funds to assist the family.

This spring Judge Roen will begin as a visiting scholar at the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law. Special thanks to NAWJ member **Judge Sue Carbon** and her husband for assisting with a career support team.



**(Judge Geeti Roen)**

The Supreme Courts of New Hampshire and Vermont welcomed Judge Roen and Judge Anisa Rasooli at a ceremony in January.



(NH Associate Justice **Hantz Marconi**, Rep. Becca Balint D-VT, VT Judge **Patricia Whalen (ret.)**, Judge Anisa Rasooli, Judge Geeti Roen, NH Judge **Ellen Christo**, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen D-NH, NH Chief Justice Gordon MacDonald, VT Chief Justice Paul Reiber )

In February, Judge Roen was acknowledged at the New Hampshire Mid-Winter Bar meeting in February acknowledged.

In March Judge Roen was celebrated at The Second Annual International Day of Women Judges. IAWJ member Judge **Ellen Christo** served as the Master of Ceremonies for this celebration.



(IAWJ member **Judge Ellen Christo**)

### **BOSTON 2025**

Our members are looking forward to hosting the annual conference in October 2025. Site visits have been conducted and we hope to have confirmed dates soon. In the meantime, our members are reaching out with suggestions for educational panels and other ideas to make the conference a memorable one. Stay tuned for details and news from our co-chairs Judges **Helen Brown-Bryant** and **Amy Blake**.

### **COLOR OF JUSTICE**

**Chief Justice Stacey Fortes** is planning a Color of Justice Program to be held on May 21, 2024, at the Lowell Justice Center. Stay tuned for details!

## OUR MEMBERS GIVE BACK



In celebration of Black History Month, and in conjunction with Discovering Justice, District One members United States District Court **Judges Denise Casper and Angel Kelley** participated in a judicial round table.

**Judge Debra Squires-Lee** authored a commentary for MCLE: An Introduction to Massachusetts Discovery Practice, Judicial Commentary, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2023. She was also a panelist on Business Litigation Session Bench Bar Discussion (MCLE); Making the Case for Restorative Justice as an Alternate Disposition (MBA); Captivating the Courtroom (MCLE); and View From the Bench: Litigating Trade Secret Cases in Massachusetts State and Federal Courts (BBA). She also gave a presentation to Norwood High School Students, Criminal Justice Classes.

**Chief Justice Amy Nechtem** serves on the Trial Court Committee for Women's History Month Celebration. This year's event celebrates some remarkable women!



**Chief Justice Amy Nechtem**, along with **NAWJ Member Judge Edwina Richardson** of New York, is speaking at the 20th ABA Center on Children and Families and the Law National Conference in DC on a panel entitled: Beyond the Blindfold "Ensuring Equal Access to Justice- How Judges Bring Background to the Bench." She is also chairing the Northeast Symposium of Judicial and Systems Partners on Child Well-Being, Family Preservation and Equal Access to Justice in Philadelphia. Finally, she is attending the One Mind at Work Global Forum in California as a member of the MA Trial Court Trauma Response Committee.

A team led by **Judges Valerie Yarashus** and **MaryBeth Ogulewicz** are assisting Zuhra, an Afghan judge, as she resettles in Massachusetts. Zuhra is here with her husband and two young children. She has many challenges but under the leadership of Valerie and Mary Beth and with the support of a group of volunteer judges including **Diane Rubin, Judy Dein, Vickie Henry, Lynn Rooney, Jennifer Rivera Ulwick,** and **Sawako Gardner**, Zohra and her family will be safe and set up for success!

**Judge Arose Nielsen** was the featured speaker on a Color of Law Roundtable at Western New England University School of Law.



#### **EXCITING NEWS FROM THE JUVENILE COURT**

The Juvenile Court, under the leadership of **Chief Justice Amy Nechtem**, is expanding drug treatment courts for parents struggling with addiction.

For more details, please see the following:

[Mass. to expand drug treatment courts for parents with addiction \(bostonglobe.com\)](https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/local-news/2024/03/13/mass-to-expand-drug-treatment-courts-for-parents-with-addiction/)

<https://www.wgbh.org/news/local/2024-03-13/to-reunify-kids-with-parents-who-have-substance-issues-mass-offers-a-new-way-in-the-courts>

<https://www.wpri.com/new-england/massachusetts/massachusetts-family-treatment-court-is-now-in-session/>

Respectfully Submitted,

Hon. Amy Lyn Blake  
District One Director